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Texas A&M University

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A HISTORICAL LOOK AT TEXAS CRP PARTICIPATION: TEXAS AGRILIFE EXTENSION DISTRICT 9



AFPC

Department of Agricultural Economics
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Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Texas A&M University

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**Agricultural and Food Policy Center
The Texas A&M University System**

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Texas AgriLife Extension Districts

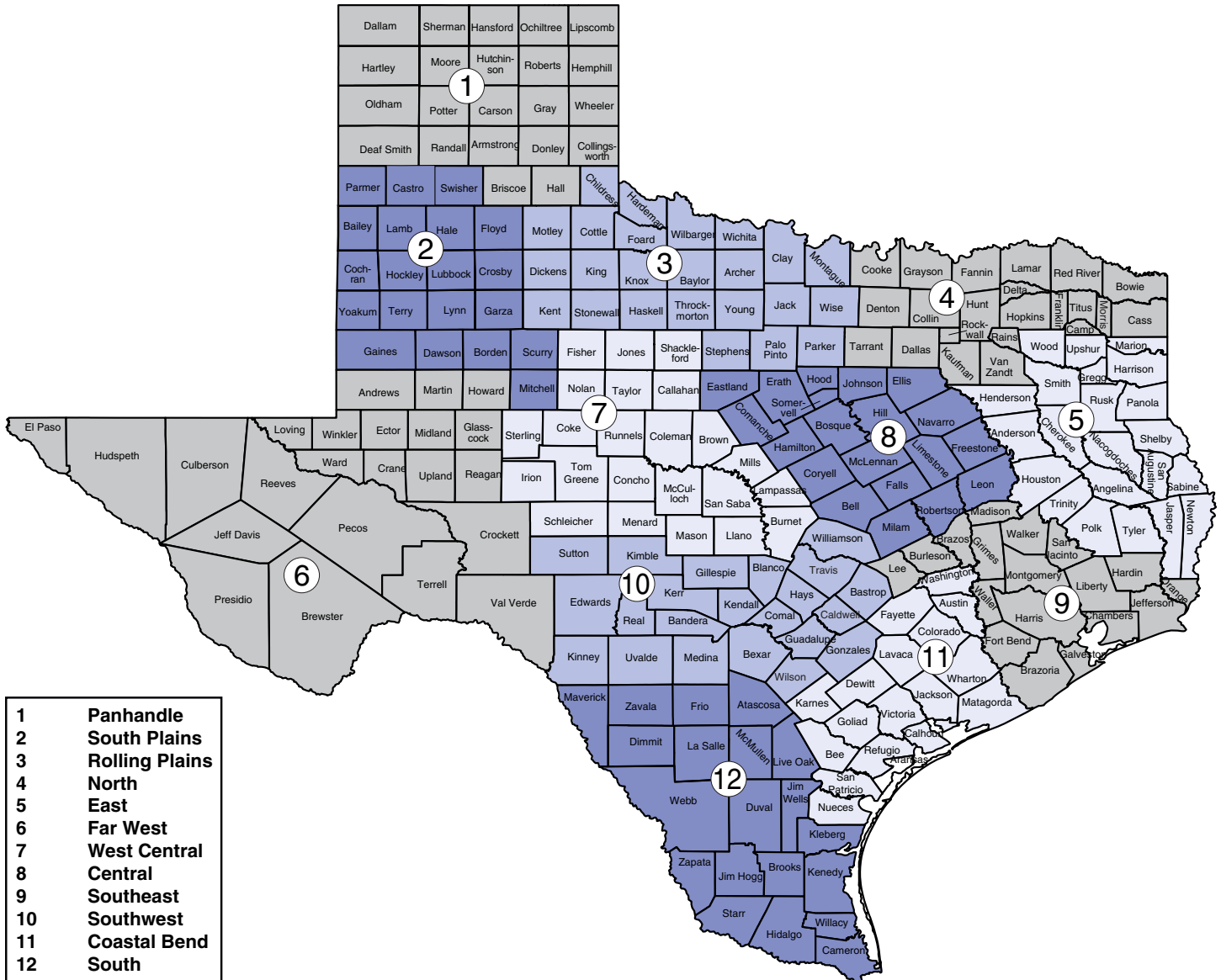


Table of Contents

Texas AgriLife Extension Districts	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Texas Counties by Texas AgriLife Districts	4
Introduction	6
Conservation Reserve Program Legislative History	6

Figures

Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 1-12	8
Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 13-38.....	9
Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2010.....	10
Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2011	11
Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2012.....	12
Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2013.....	13
Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2014.....	14
Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2015.....	15
Top Ten Texas Counties in Acres Enrolled in CRP	16
Top Ten Texas Counties in Number of CRP Contracts.....	17
Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Acres per CRP Contract.....	18
Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Rental per Acre Enrolled in CRP	19

Data Tables

CRP Data for Texas and Extension Districts (Signups 1-12).....	20
CRP Data for Texas and Extension Districts (Signups 13-38)	21
Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period	22
Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period	23
CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration by Extension District (All Signup Types)	24
CRP Data for Texas, District 9, and District Counties (Signups 1-12)	25
CRP Data for Texas, District 9, and District Counties (Signups 13-38).....	26
Acres of CRP for Texas, District 9, and District Counties by Signup Period.....	27
Acres of CRP for Texas, District 9, and District Counties by Signup Period.....	28
CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration for District 9 Counties (All Signup Types)	29

Texas Counties by Texas AgriLife Extension Districts

Anderson	District 5
Andrews	District 6
Angelina	District 5
Aransas	District 11
Archer	District 3
Armstrong.....	District 1
Atascosa	District 12
Austin	District 11
Bailey	District 2
Bandera	District 10
Bastrop.....	District 10
Baylor	District 3
Bee	District 11
Bell	District 8
Bexar	District 10
Blanco	District 10
Borden	District 2
Bosque	District 8
Bowie	District 4
Brazoria	District 9
Brazos	District 9
Briscoe	District 1
Brooks	District 12
Brown	District 7
Brewster	District 6
Burleson.....	District 9
Burnet	District 7
Caldwell.....	District 10
Calhoun	District 11
Callahan	District 7
Cameron	District 12
Camp	District 4
Carson	District 1
Cass	District 4
Castro	District 2
Chambers	District 9
Cherokee	District 5
Childress.....	District 3
Clay	District 3
Cochran	District 2
Coke	District 7
Coleman	District 7
Collin	District 4
Collingsworth	District 1
Colorado	District 11
Comal	District 10
Comanche.....	District 8
Concho	District 7
Cooke	District 4
Coryell	District 8
Cottle	District 3
Crane	District 6
Crockett.....	District 6
Crosby	District 2
Culberson	District 6
Dallam	District 1
Dallas	District 4
Dawson	District 2
Deaf Smith	District 1
Delta	District 4
Denton	District 4
Dewitt.....	District 11

Dickens.....	District 3
Dimmitt	District 12
Donley	District 1
Duval	District 12
Eastland	District 8
Ector	District 6
Edwards	District 10
El Paso	District 6
Ellis	District 8
Erath.....	District 8
Falls.....	District 8
Fannin	District 4
Fayette	District 11
Fisher	District 7
Floyd.....	District 2
Foard	District 3
Fort Bend	District 9
Franklin	District 4
Freestone	District 8
Frio	District 12
Gaines	District 2
Galveston	District 9
Garza	District 2
Gillespie.....	District 10
Glasscock.....	District 6
Goliad	District 11
Gonzales.....	District 10
Gray	District 1
Grayson	District 4
Gregg	District 5
Grimes.....	District 9
Guadalupe.....	District 10
Hale	District 2
Hall	District 3
Hamilton.....	District 8
Hansford	District 1
Hardeman.....	District 3
Hardin	District 9
Harris	District 9
Harrison.....	District 5
Hartley	District 1
Haskell.....	District 3
Hays	District 10
Hemphill.....	District 1
Henderson	District 5
Hidalgo	District 12
Hill	District 8
Hockley.....	District 2
Hood	District 8
Hopkins	District 4
Houston.....	District 5
Howard.....	District 6
Hudspeth	District 6
Hunt	District 4
Hutchinson	District 1
Irion	District 7
Jack	District 3
Jackson	District 11
Jasper.....	District 5
Jeff Davis.....	District 6
Jefferson	District 9
Jim Hogg.....	District 12

Jim Wells.....	District 12
Johnson.....	District 8
Jones.....	District 7
Karnes.....	District 11
Kaufman.....	District 4
Kendall.....	District 10
Kenedy.....	District 12
Kent.....	District 3
Kerr.....	District 10
Kimble.....	District 10
King.....	District 3
Kinney.....	District 10
Kleberg.....	District 12
Knox.....	District 3
Lamar.....	District 4
Lamb.....	District 2
Lampasas.....	District 7
Lasalle.....	District 12
Lavaca.....	District 11
Lee.....	District 9
Leon.....	District 8
Liberty.....	District 9
Limestone.....	District 8
Lipscomb.....	District 1
Live Oak.....	District 12
Llano.....	District 7
Loving.....	District 6
Lubbock.....	District 2
Lynn.....	District 2
Madison.....	District 9
Marion.....	District 5
Martin.....	District 6
Mason.....	District 7
Matagorda.....	District 11
Maverick.....	District 12
Mcculloch.....	District 7
Mclennan.....	District 8
Mcmullen.....	District 12
Medina.....	District 10
Menard.....	District 7
Midland.....	District 6
Milam.....	District 8
Mills.....	District 7
Mitchell.....	District 2
Montague.....	District 3
Montgomery.....	District 9
Moore.....	District 1
Morris.....	District 4
Motley.....	District 3
Nacogdoches.....	District 5
Navarro.....	District 8
Newton.....	District 5
Nolan.....	District 7
Nueces.....	District 11
Ochiltree.....	District 1
Oldham.....	District 1
Orange.....	District 9
Palo Pinto.....	District 3
Panola.....	District 5
Parker.....	District 3
Parmer.....	District 2
Pecos.....	District 6
Polk.....	District 5
Potter.....	District 1
Presidio.....	District 6

Rains.....	District 4
Randall.....	District 1
Reagan.....	District 6
Real.....	District 10
Red River.....	District 4
Reeves.....	District 6
Refugio.....	District 11
Roberts.....	District 1
Robertson.....	District 8
Rockwall.....	District 4
Runnels.....	District 7
Rusk.....	District 5
Sabine.....	District 5
San Augustine.....	District 5
San Jacinto.....	District 9
San Patricio.....	District 11
San Saba.....	District 7
Schleicher.....	District 7
Scurry.....	District 2
Shackelford.....	District 7
Shelby.....	District 5
Sherman.....	District 1
Smith.....	District 5
Somervell.....	District 8
Starr.....	District 12
Stephens.....	District 3
Sterling.....	District 7
Stonewall.....	District 3
Sutton.....	District 10
Swisher.....	District 2
Tarrant.....	District 4
Taylor.....	District 7
Terrell.....	District 6
Terry.....	District 2
Throckmorton.....	District 3
Titus.....	District 4
Tom Green.....	District 7
Travis.....	District 10
Trinity.....	District 5
Tyler.....	District 5
Upshur.....	District 5
Upton.....	District 6
Uvalde.....	District 10
Val Verde.....	District 6
Van Zandt.....	District 4
Victoria.....	District 11
Walker.....	District 9
Waller.....	District 9
Ward.....	District 6
Washington.....	District 11
Webb.....	District 12
Wharton.....	District 11
Wheeler.....	District 1
Wichita.....	District 3
Wilbarger.....	District 3
Willacy.....	District 12
Williamson.....	District 8
Wilson.....	District 10
Winkler.....	District 6
Wise.....	District 3
Wood.....	District 5
Yoakum.....	District 2
Young.....	District 3
Zapata.....	District 12
Zavala.....	District 12

Introduction

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is one of the most successful Federal agricultural programs. While the program has been adjusted over time, for more than 30 years the primary emphasis has been to protect environmentally sensitive land while providing farmers with annual rental payments.

Texas has historically had the highest number of acres enrolled in the CRP. In any given year, 3 to 4 million of the slightly more than 30 million acres nationally have been enrolled in Texas.

Over time, as contracts have expired, most of the land that had been enrolled in the program was re-enrolled. However, due to funding limitations, the acreage cap has been reduced which will likely mean that many Texas farmers and landowners will not be able to re-enroll this land in the CRP. This publication, focusing on Texas AgriLife Extension District 9, is excerpted from a larger work and is part of a planned series of publications designed to provide farmers and landowners statewide with additional information regarding their options as their contracts begin to expire. This publication addresses where the CRP acreage is in Texas AgriLife Extension District 9 and when contracts will be expiring, as well as providing a historical view of how important the CRP program has been over the past 30 years. If you wish to see the larger report, it is available on the AFPC website at <http://www.afpc.tamu.edu/pubs/2/541/RR-10-01%20-%20for%20web.pdf>

Conservation Reserve Program Legislative History

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was first established by the Food Security Act of 1985 with the purpose of removing up to 45 million acres from production and reducing damage to highly erodible soils and environmentally sensitive land. Patterned after the conservation reserve part of the Soil Bank Program that was initiated during the 1950s, the program offered annual rental payments and cost-share assistance up to 50% of expenses to producers for taking their land out of production and establishing long-term conserving covers. Landowners could enter into contracts for a minimum of 10 years or a maximum of 15 years. A county could not enroll more than 25% of its cropland unless the Secretary of Agriculture determined that doing so would not have an adverse economic impact. In its early years, CRP eligibility was limited to land with highly erodible soils, and, during the first nine signups, 34 million acres were enrolled.

The Food, Conservation, Agriculture, and Trade Act of 1990 (1990 Farm Bill) extended CRP land eligibility beyond highly erodible soils to include state water quality priority areas, plots of land that adopted high priority conservation practices, and "Conservation Priority Areas" (Chesapeake Bay, Long Island Sound, and the Great Lakes watershed). Producers were given the option to participate in limited fall and winter grazing or cropping between trees on CRP land in exchange for reduced rental rates. The 1990 Farm Bill also made changes to the way CRP contracts were ranked and annual rental rates were applied. The Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) was created as a way to rank offers based on water quality, air quality, and soil erodibility concerns. Maximum soil specific rental rates were also set allowing producers with highly productive and highly erodible soils to enter into contracts.

The Federal Agricultural Improvement Reform Act of 1996 capped CRP enrollment at 36.4 million acres. Wildlife habitat was also added to the EBI. CRP continuous sign-up was created to allow environmentally desirable land devoted to specific conservation practices to be enrolled in CRP at any time. Eligible conservation practices included riparian buffers, wildlife habitat buffers, wetland buffers, filter strips, wetland restoration, grass waterways, shelterbelts, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerant vegetation, and shallow water areas for wildlife. Continuous sign-up contracts were not subject to competitive bidding. The USDA allowed some producers an early out option to modify or end their CRP contracts after 5 years of the program. During 1997 – 2002, many of the early CRP contracts began to expire and approximately 22 million acres were enrolled. The

expiring contracts were not automatically renewed. There was increased competition because bids were ranked by the EBI.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 made a few minor changes to CRP. It increased the acreage cap to 39.2 million acres. Cropping history requirements were changed to four of the last six years. CRP enrollment began to shift geographically. The Northern Great Plains region gained slightly at the expense of the Heartland and the Southern Seaboard. The Plains were able to offer land at a lower rental rate to increase the attractiveness of their offers.

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 capped CRP at 32 million acres beginning on October 1, 2009. Eligibility requirements were modified to land cropped in four of six years prior to 2008 rather than 2002. Alfalfa, legumes, and multi-year grasses in a rotation practice with an annual commodity could be used to meet the cropping history requirement. A local preference criterion was also added in determining the acceptability of CRP offers. In previous bills the Secretary used different criteria for different States and regions to determine acceptability. No more than 25% of a county's cropland could be enrolled in CRP; however, exceptions were created to waive this limit in the case of continuous or Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) enrollment. A provision was also added for beginning or socially disadvantaged producers to help them make the transition from CRP land to production or other conservation programs; \$25 million in funding was authorized for these transitions.

About 75% of CRP contracts (28 million acres) are scheduled to expire between 2007 and 2010. During 2006, in an attempt to distribute the upcoming administrative burden, holders of expiring contracts were allowed to re-enroll or extend their contracts, and 82% of contract holders chose to do this. Over the next five years, 3.9 – 5.6 million acres are scheduled to expire annually.

Background Sources:

O'Brien, Doug. "Conservation Reserve Program." Summary and Evolution of U.S. Farm Bill Conservation Titles – Expanded Discussions. Fayetteville, AR: The National Agricultural Law Center. [Accessed April 2010]. Available online at <http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/farmbills/conservation-expanded.html#reserve-90>

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Report Data Sources

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USDA Farm Service Agency. "Contract Extension, Expirations and Enrollment Update, CRP Contract Summary and Statistics." Conservation Programs. Washington, DC: USDA Farm Service Agency. [Accessed February 2010.] Available online at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=rns-css>

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Figure 1: Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 1-12

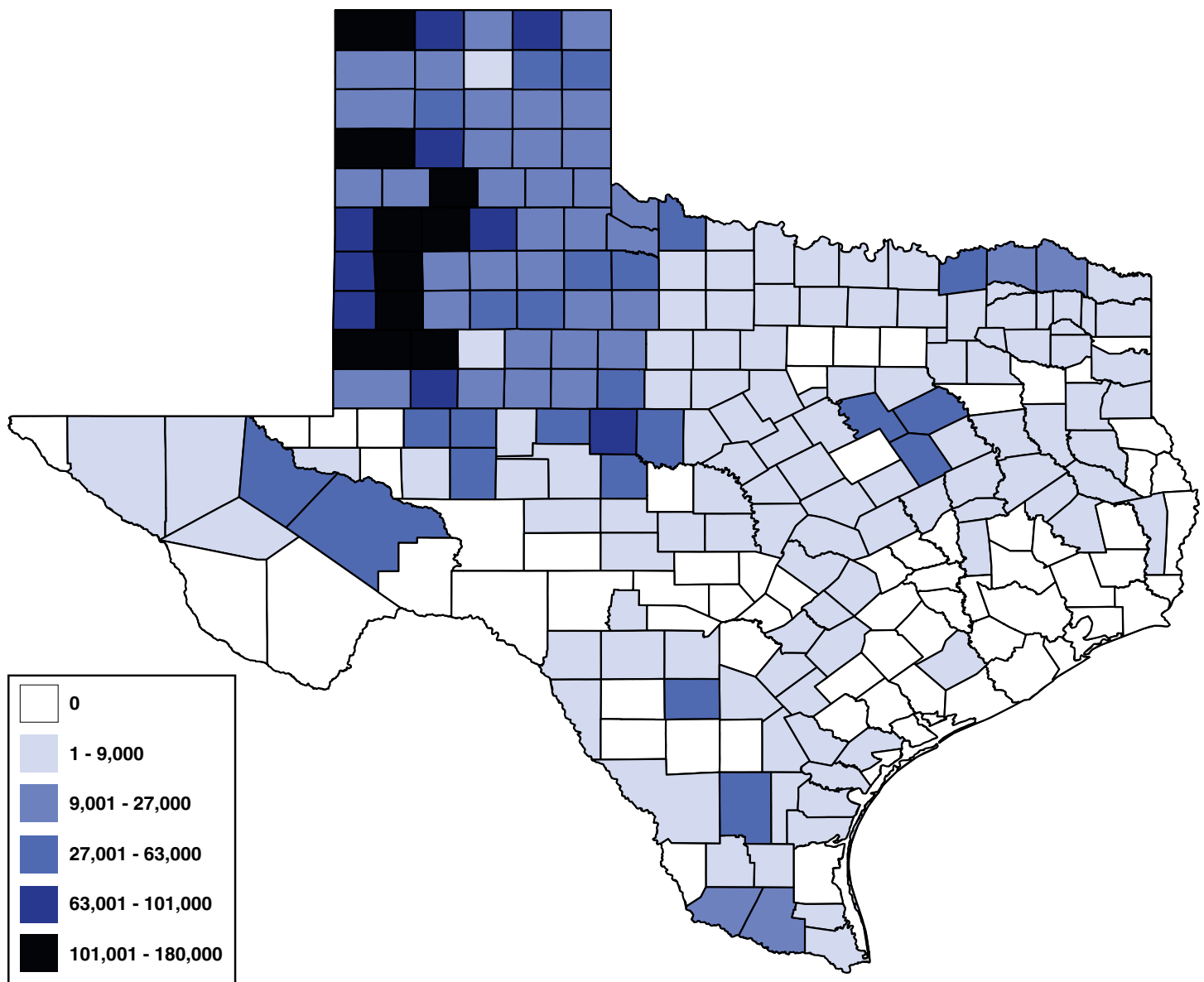


Figure 2: Texas Conservation Reserve Program Signups 13-38

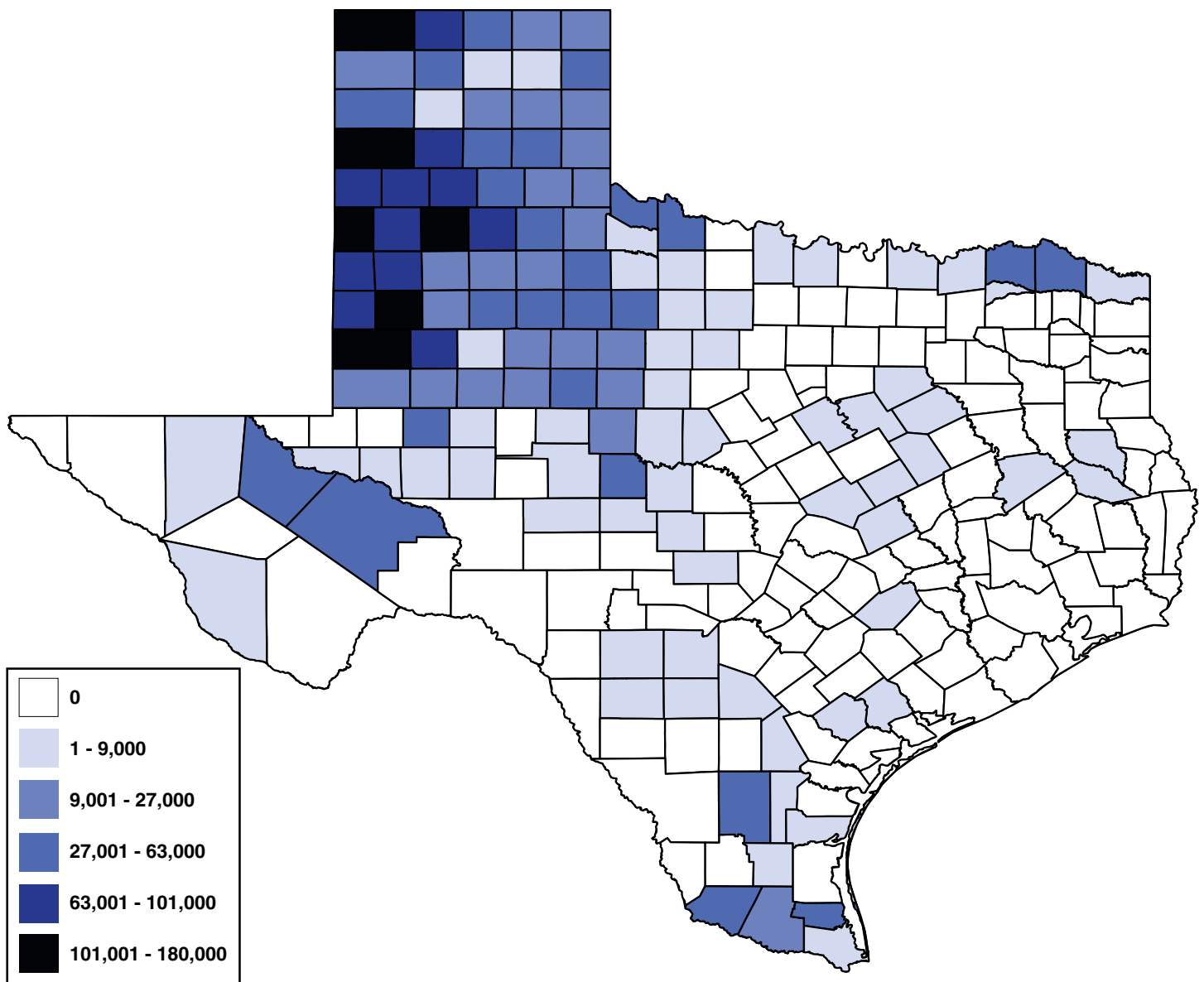


Figure 3: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2010

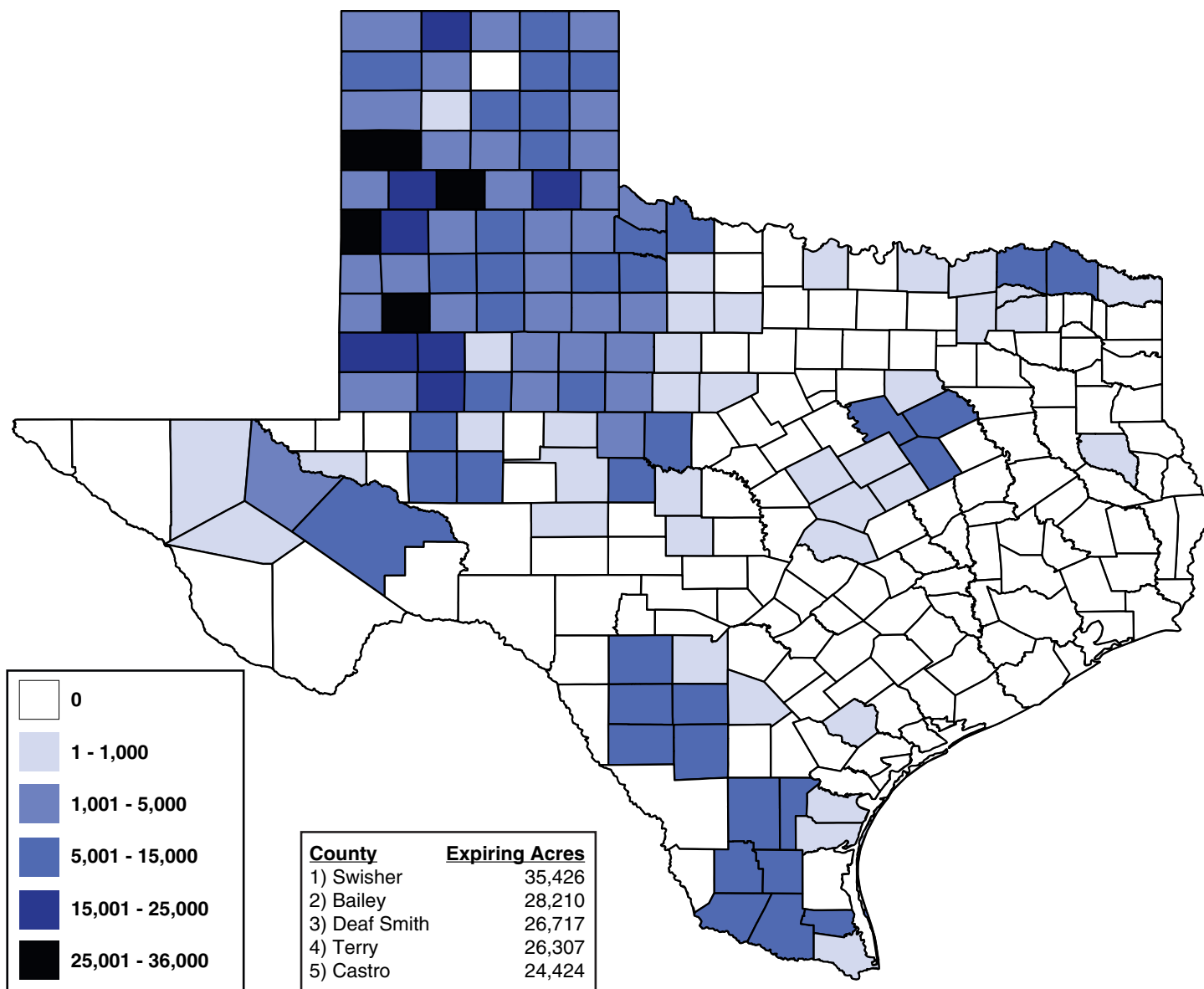


Figure 4: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2011

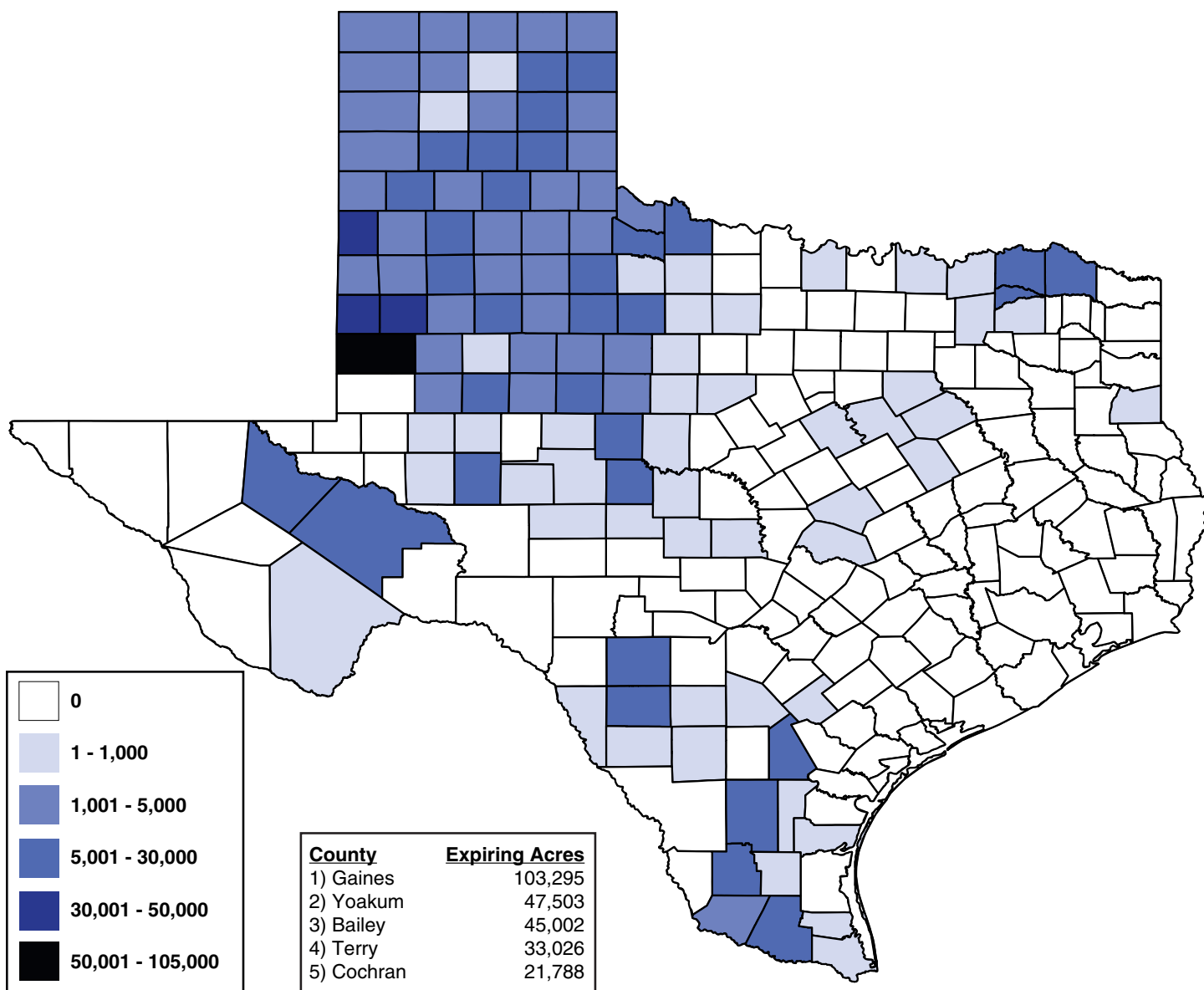


Figure 5: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2012

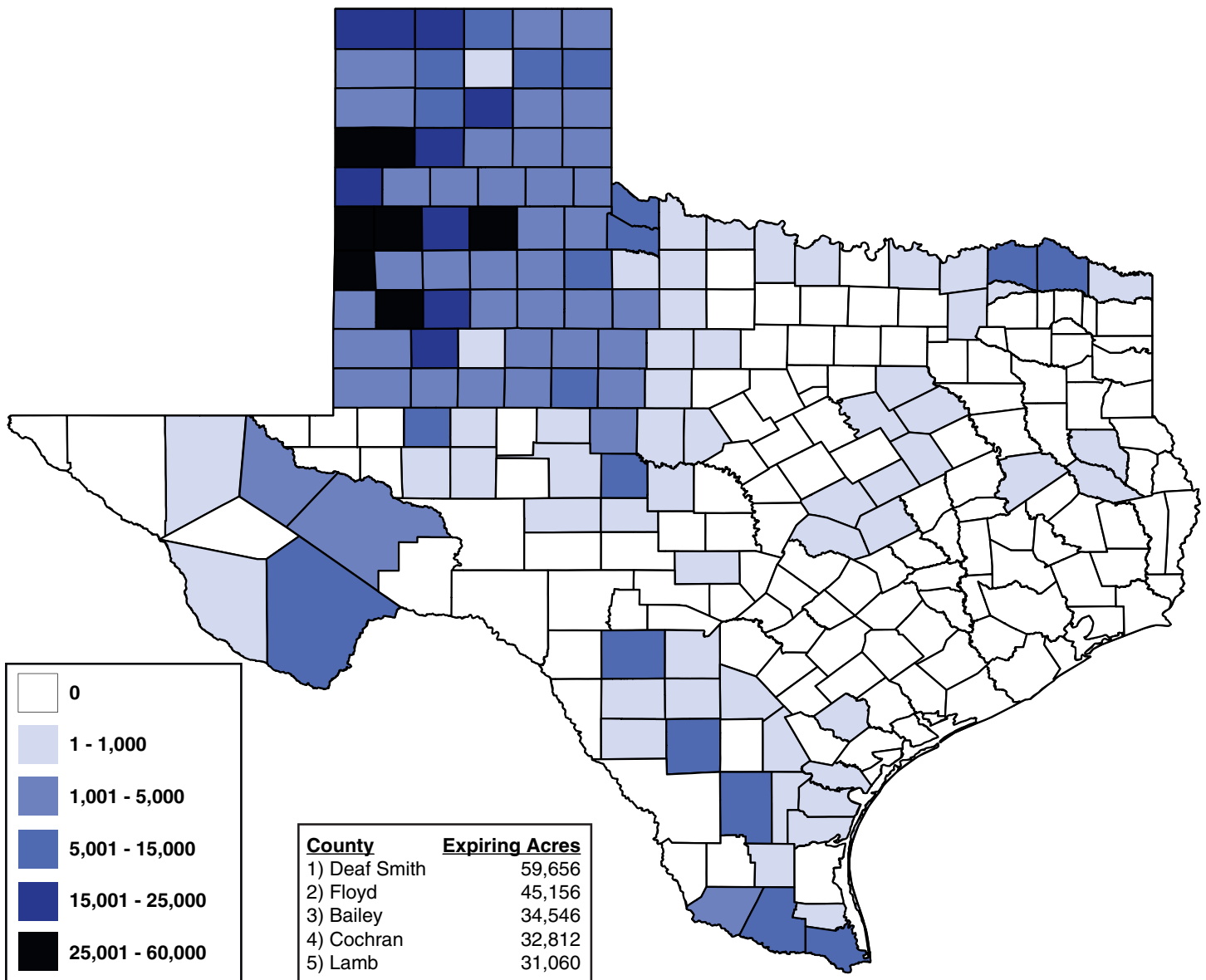


Figure 6: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2013

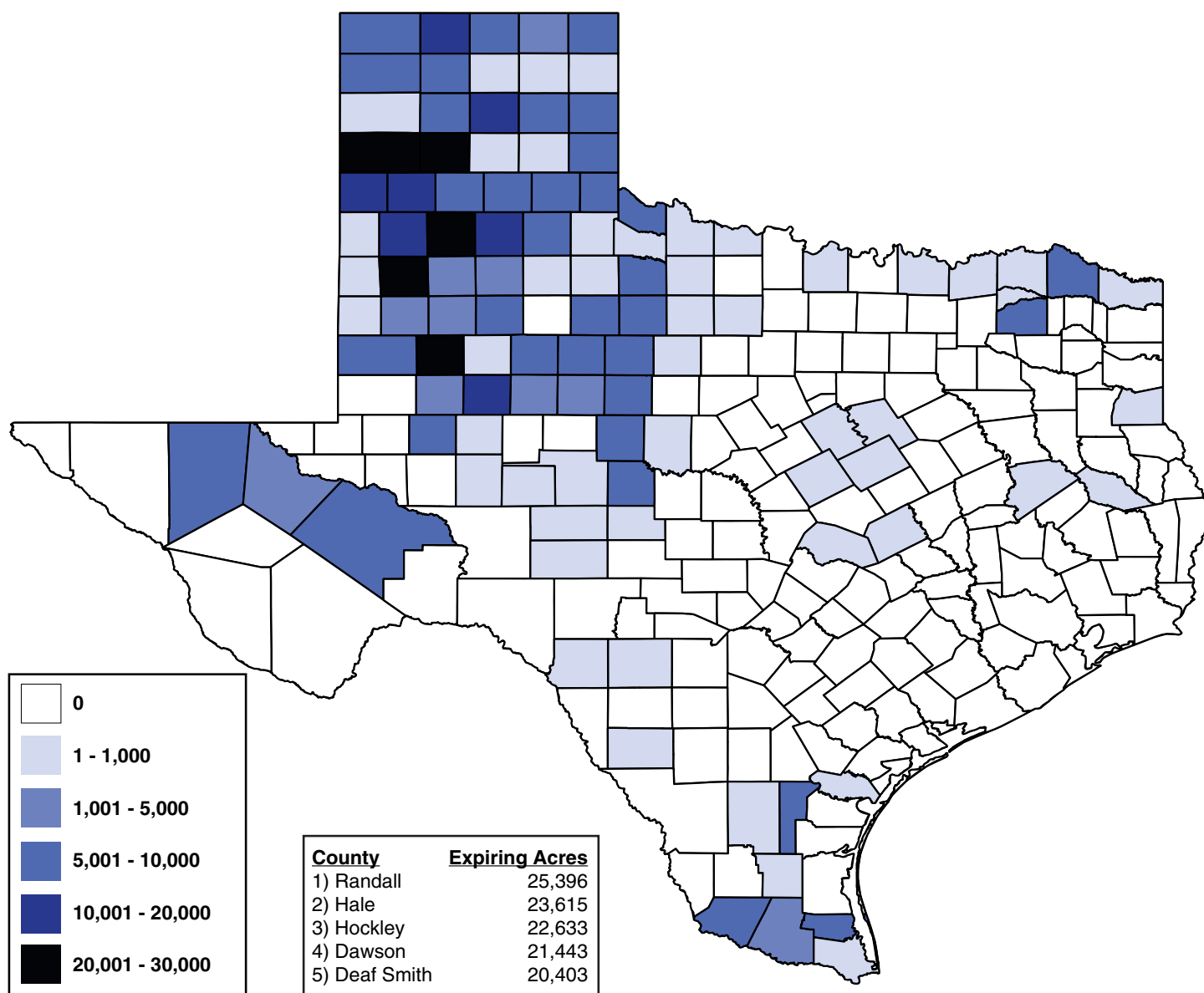


Figure 7: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2014

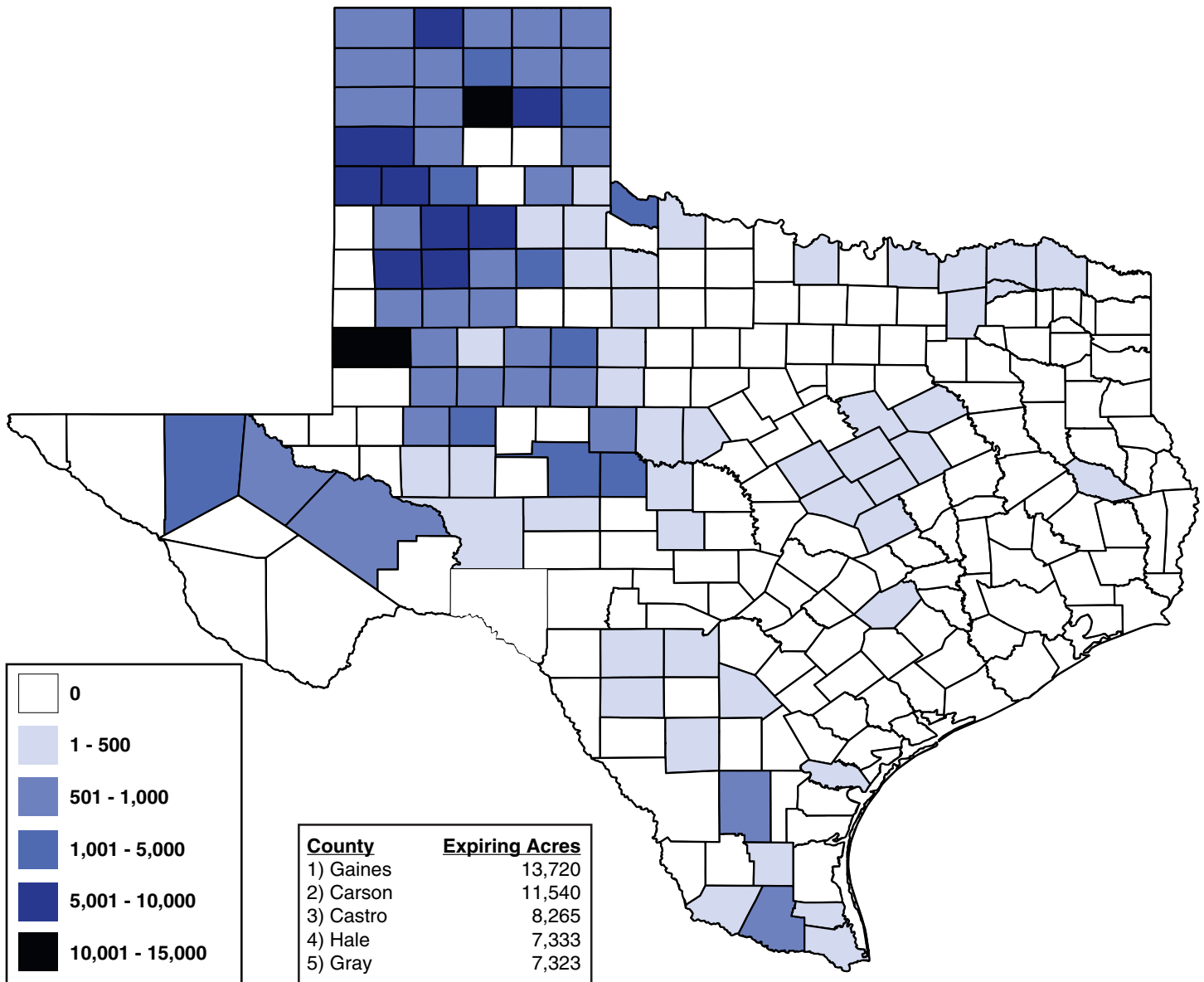


Figure 8: Conservation Reserve Program Acres Expiring in 2015

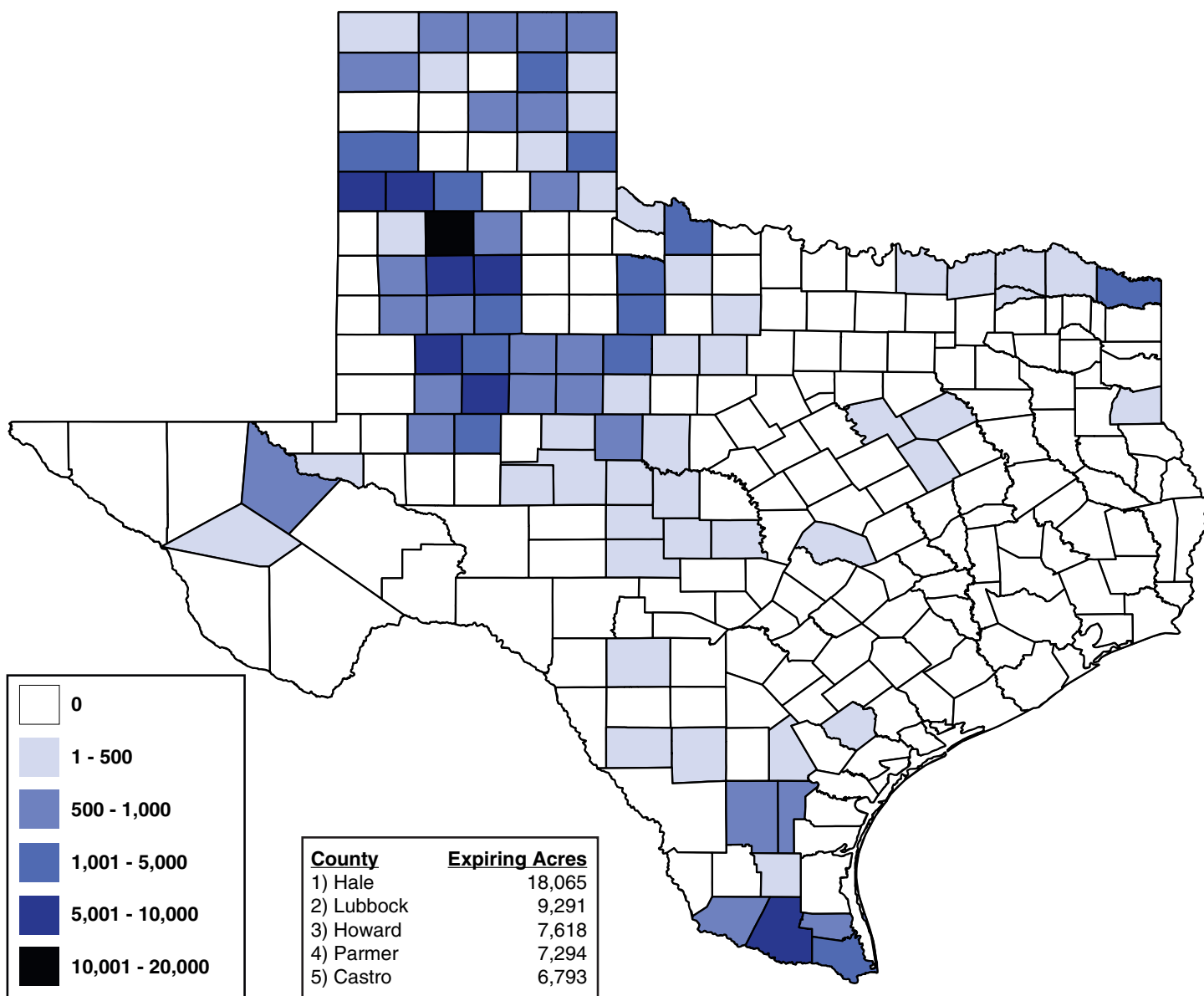


Figure 9: Top Ten Texas Counties in Acres Enrolled in CRP (Signups 13-38)

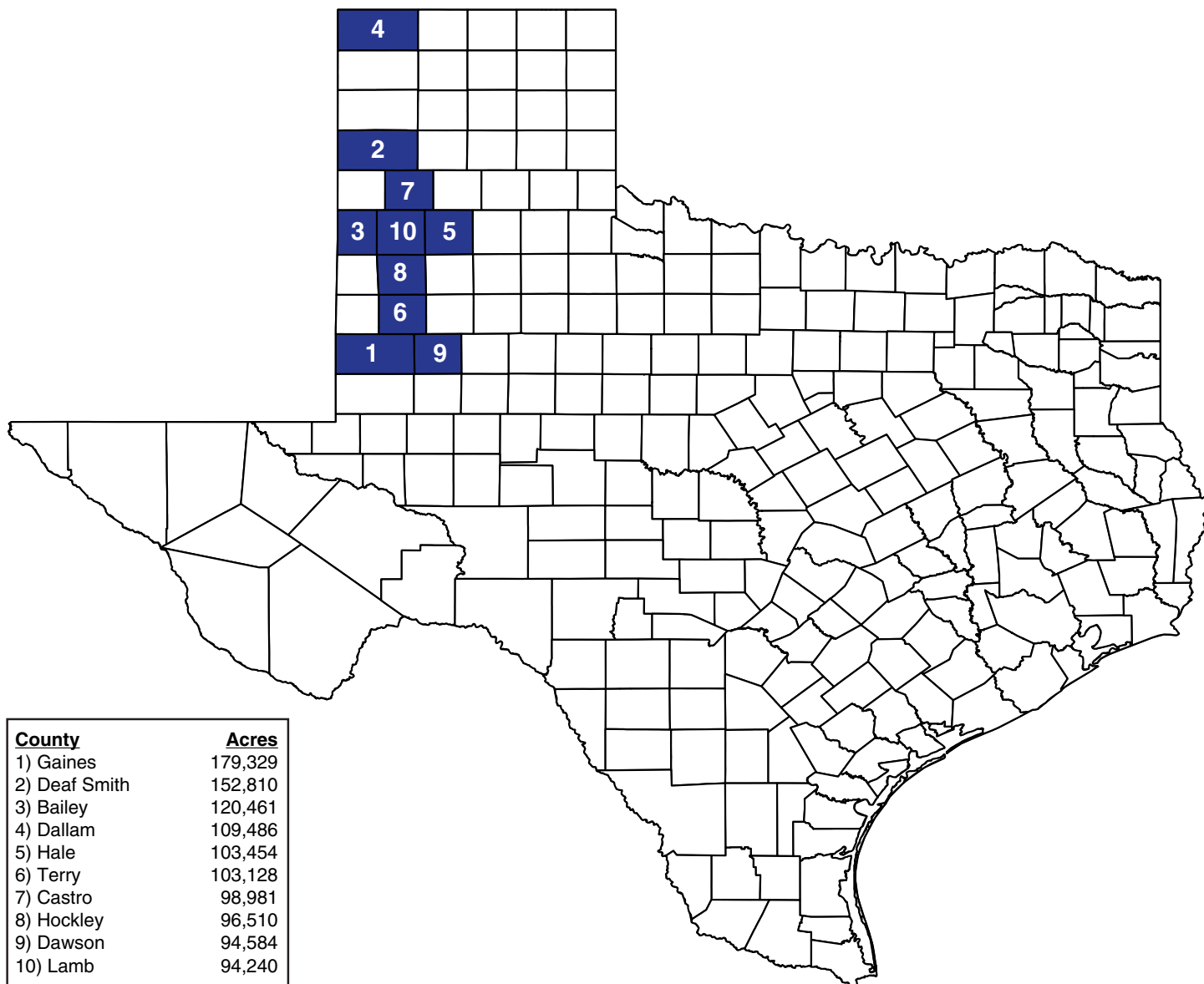


Figure 10: Top Ten Texas Counties in Number of CRP Contracts (Signups 13-38)

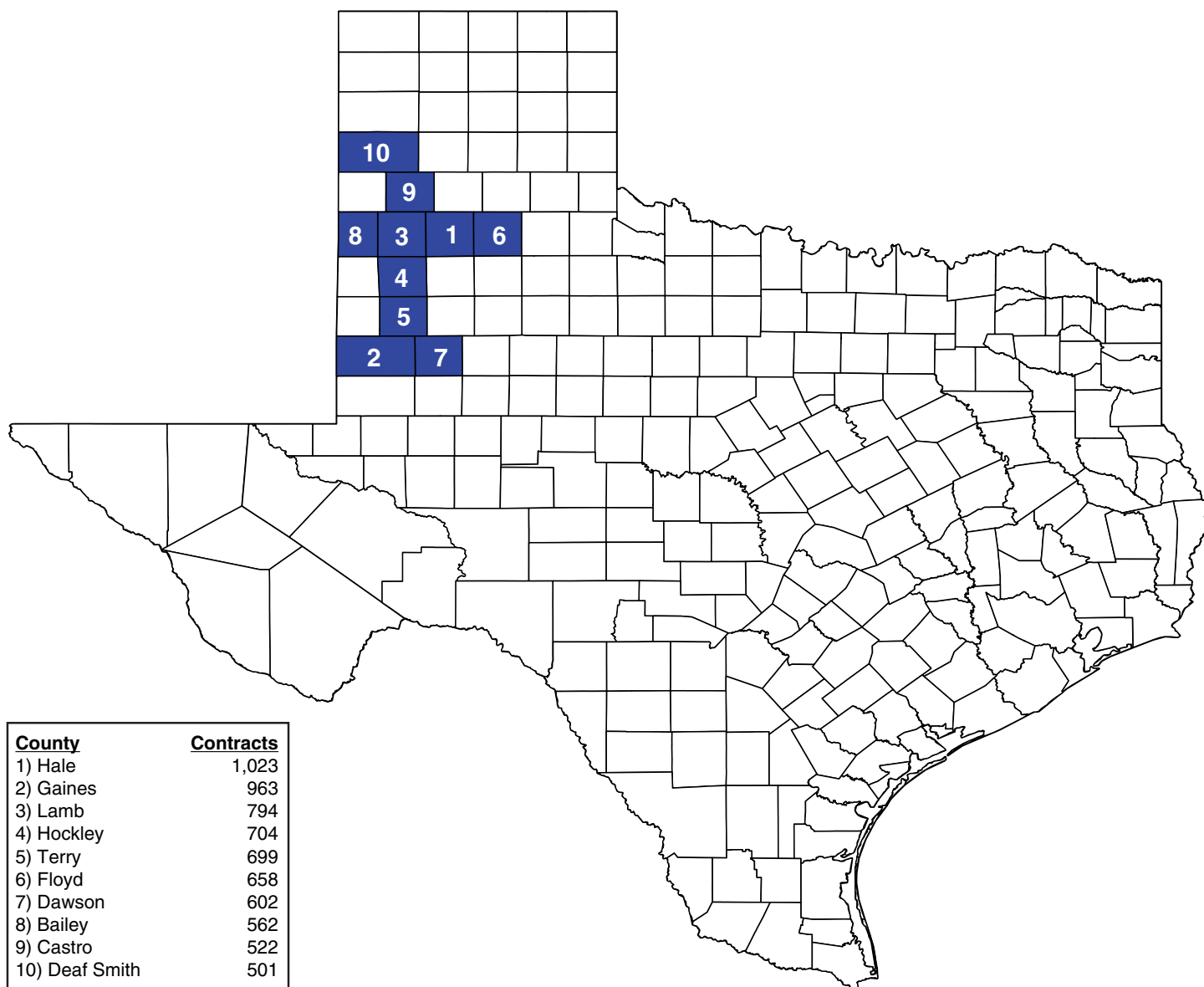


Figure 11: Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Acres per CRP Contract (Signups 13-38)

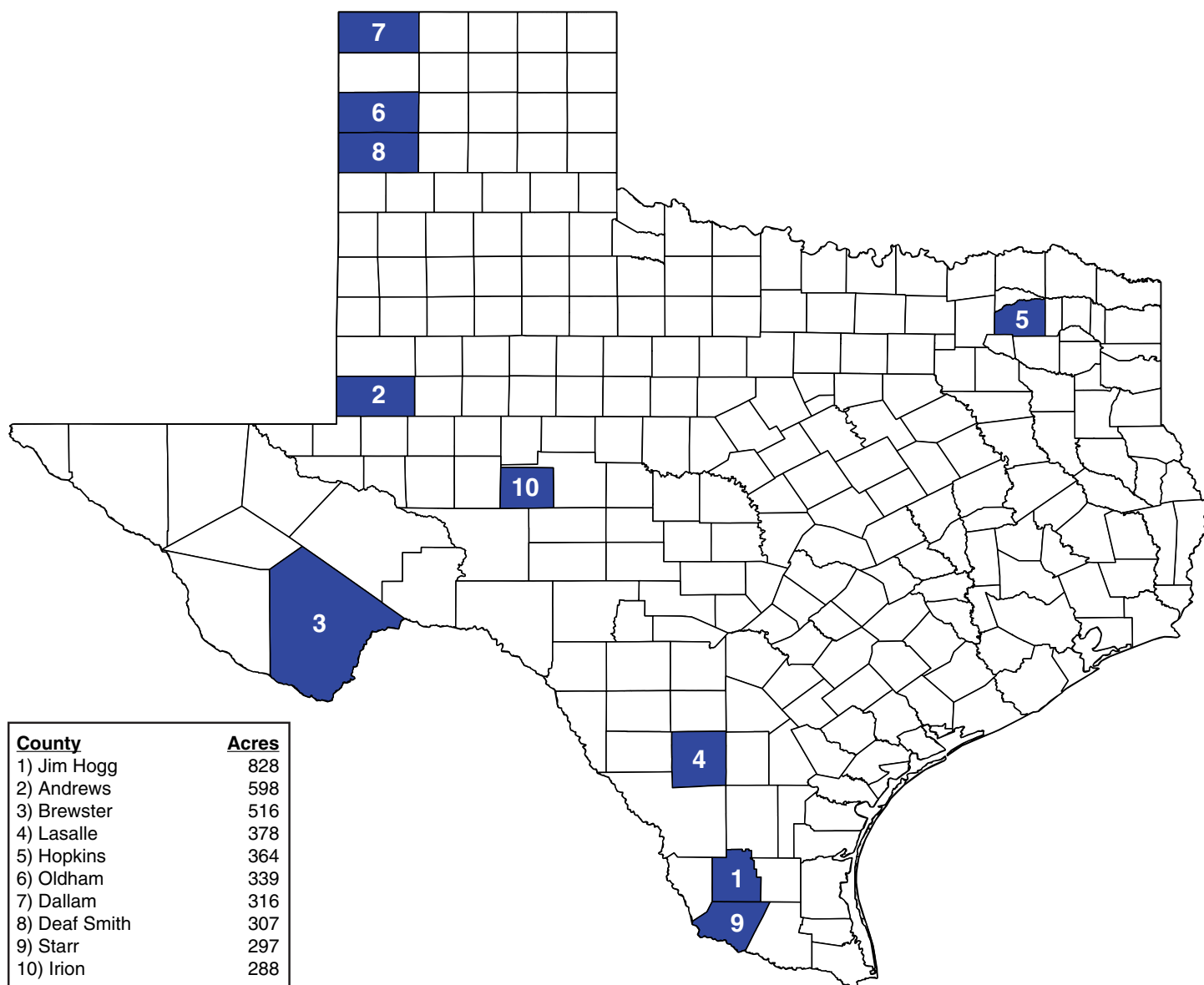


Figure 12: Top Ten Texas Counties in Average Rental per Acre Enrolled in CRP (Signups 13-38)

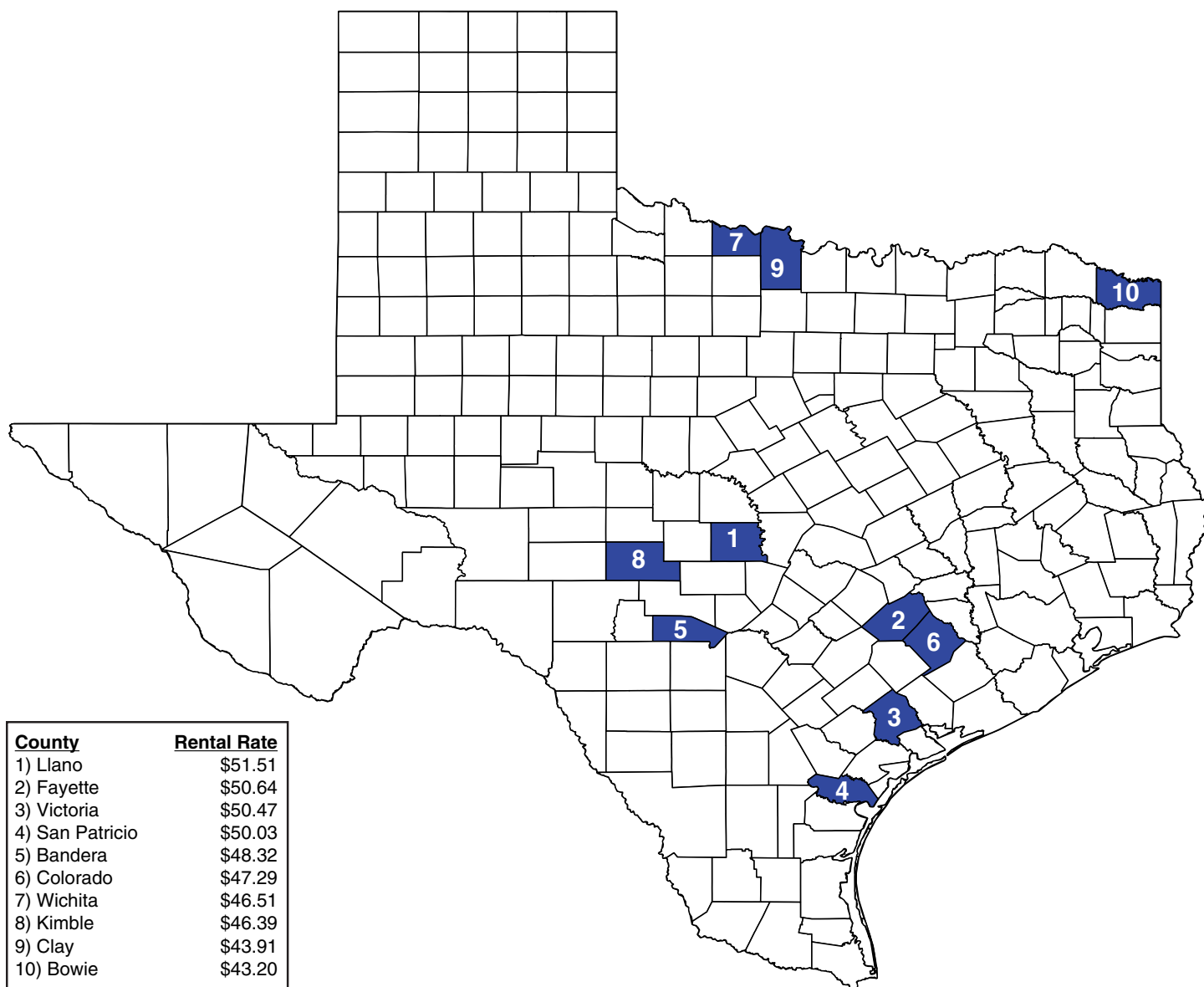


Table 1. CRP Data for Texas and Extension Districts (Signups 1-12).									
	Total Acres*	Contracts	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental Rate	1 and 2	3	4	5 through 7	
Texas	4,138,160	19,707	210	\$39.54	695,438	2,533,753	702,565	192,764	
District 1	1,119,507	4,119	272	\$39.15	101,871	914,546	92,770	7,118	
District 2	1,614,575	7,262	222	\$39.30	178,463	927,887	423,647	80,596	
District 3	473,579	2,556	185	\$39.24	136,764	271,008	49,563	16,109	
District 4	96,191	815	118	\$39.39	39,407	34,082	14,158	7,457	
District 5	7,070	74	96	\$39.14	1,501	2,802	1,331	1,436	
District 6	250,786	937	268	\$39.56	30,545	100,149	66,534	53,346	
District 7	308,261	2,281	135	\$39.04	140,710	150,717	6,528	7,019	
District 8	77,402	763	101	\$39.09	16,531	41,386	12,840	5,997	
District 9	371	4	93	\$39.82		69	302		
District 10	12,271	58	212	\$39.43	3,587	4,217	711	3,757	
District 11	22,317	145	154	\$48.55	12,558	9,152	94	513	
District 12	155,829	693	225	\$45.62	33,502	77,738	34,087	9,415	
* General signup acres only. Continuous signup did not begin until Signup 14.									
† In later signups the land class was replaced with an environmental benefits index.									

Table 2. CRP Data for Texas and Extension Districts (Signups 13-38).							
	Total Acres	Contracts	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental Rate	General Acres	Continuous Acres	Average Erosion Index
Texas	3,305,540	21,152	156	\$35.43	3,254,107	51,296	11
District 1	824,623	3,702	223	\$34.57	824,623	3,453	9
District 2	1,524,104	9,918	154	\$36.06	1,523,821	283	11
District 3	288,870	2,174	133	\$34.71	285,199	3,672	9
District 4	25,795	452	57	\$37.30	23,577	2,219	9
District 5	2,009	29	69	\$29.82	2,009	0	7
District 6	226,570	1,272	178	\$33.38	221,072	5,498	18
District 7	191,020	2,144	89	\$34.79	182,300	8,720	9
District 8	11,087	362	31	\$35.47	9,859	1,228	10
District 9							
District 10	5,618	89	63	\$37.99	4,068	1,550	6
District 11	849	61	14	\$46.60	0	849	2
District 12	118,041	735	161	\$36.76	116,182	1,859	10
(As of February 2010)							

Table 3. Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period.													
	1 - 12	13	14*	15	16	17*	18	19*	20	21*	22*	23*	24*
Texas	4,138,160	955	47	1,315,036	784,654	33	403,026		188,344	333	935	1,746	9,567
District 1	111,507			274,043	273,207		97,390		37,640		229	53	
District 2	1,614,577			715,744	296,975		179,678		61,845				
District 3	473,582			134,631	80,160		40,557		16,831	36		85	50
District 4	96,192		47	8,880	3,678		7,516		2,689		172	264	426
District 5	7,071			681									
District 6	250,786			76,221	45,260		26,450		14,461				4,083
District 7	308,262			49,480	54,199		31,560		32,451			329	2,336
District 8	77,403			1,803	4,924		1,066		663		17		146
District 9	371												
District 10	12,272			814	1,434		1,821						398
District 11	22,318												53
District 12	155,830	955		40,583	18,476		8,240		9,894				663
* denotes continuous signup numbers													

Table 4. Acres of CRP for Texas and Extension Districts by Signup Period.														
	25*	26	27*	28*	29	30*	31*	32-REX	33	34*	35*	36*	37*	38*
Texas	5,400	85,775	2,932	4,785	103,304	9,429	5,008	323,356	49,657		6,014	3,930	944	193
District 1		5,519		50	11,111			112,930	9,330		2,350	772		
District 2		42,120			57,639	120		155,485	14,336				163	
District 3	618	1,761	568	230	4,053	1,241	259	5,162	2,044		585			
District 4	637			138	145	471		670					65	
District 5								1,329						
District 6		17,910	145	38	9,238		1,174	29,788	1,744		58			
District 7	1,242	4,903	268	298	2,964	1,701	1,057	4,340	2,404		964	527		
District 8		940	122	81		217	160		464		195	252	39	
District 9														
District 10	123			718		226						84		
District 11			88	315		203	191							
District 12	284	7,785		912	10,608			7,018	12,624					

* denotes continuous signup numbers

Table 5. CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration by Extension District (All Signup Types).												
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	>2019
Texas	561,330	670,661	685,133	822,585	363,052	169,686	139,748	61,391	138,557	103,951	88,943	53,561
District 1	181,665	150,588	119,958	253,369	97,665	60,110	22,346	11,317	55,294	21,968	38,504	5,419
District 2	254,062	277,812	379,397	356,682	170,640	76,534	73,313	17,966	41,987	64,050	35,822	34,391
District 3	61,904	95,096	80,825	80,930	15,344	4,395	5,322	2,502	4,296	2,438	2,342	1,424
District 4	5,741	6,937	6,272	8,159	4,247	832	1,209	827	1,343	189	598	278
District 5		11	442	258	307	42	36		1,454	89		317
District 6	18,462	48,833	21,940	50,571	40,767	15,157	15,022	5,640	20,515	6,008	6,939	5,866
District 7	21,300	53,252	48,743	46,552	19,647	6,172	6,467	5,956	5,515	4,555	1,321	2,645
District 8	1,946	5,993	2,074	2,304	1,497	507	515	709	314	308	198	234
District 9												
District 10	3,899	1,762	1,335	1,882	1,097	90	215	349	832	884	359	360
District 11	554	78	198	399	27	81	42	177	278	348	379	347
District 12	11,333	29,239	22,070	20,686	11,663	5,368	15,109	15,680	6,515	2,764	2,000	1,408
(As of February 2010)												

Table 6. CRP Data for Texas, District 9, and District Counties (Signups 1-12).									
	Total Acres*	Contracts	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental Rate	1 and 2	3	4	5 through 7	
Texas	4,138,160	19,707	210	\$39.54	695,438	2,533,753	702,565	192,764	
District 9	371	4	93	\$39.82		69	302		
Brazoria									
Brazos									
Burleson									
Chambers									
Fort Bend									
Galveston									
Grimes	200	2	100	\$39.67		69	131		
Hardin									
Harris									
Jefferson									
Lee									
Liberty									
Madison	171	2	86	\$40.00			171		
Montgomery									
Orange									
San Jacinto									
Walker									
Waller									
* General signup acres only. Continuous signup did not begin until Signup 14.									
† In later signups the land class was replaced with an environmental benefits index.									

Table 7. CRP Data for Texas, District 9, and District Counties (Signups 13-38).							
	Total Acres	Contracts	Average Acres/Contract	Average Rental Rate	General Acres	Continuous Acres	Average Erosion Index
Texas	3,305,540	21,152	156	\$35.43	3,254,107	51,296	11
District 9							
Brazoria							
Brazos							
Burleson							
Chambers							
Fort Bend							
Galveston							
Grimes							
Hardin							
Harris							
Jefferson							
Lee							
Liberty							
Madison							
Montgomery							
Orange							
San Jacinto							
Walker							
Waller							
(As of February 2010)							

Table 8. Acres of CRP for Texas, District 9, and District Counties by Signup Period.													
	1 - 12	13	14*	15	16	17*	18	19*	20	21*	22*	23*	24*
Texas	4,138,160	955	47	1,315,036	784,654	33	403,026		188,344	333	935	1,746	9,567
District 9	371												
Brazoria													
Brazos													
Burleson													
Chambers													
Fort Bend													
Galveston													
Grimes	200												
Hardin													
Harris													
Jefferson													
Lee													
Liberty													
Madison	171												
Montgomery													
Orange													
San Jacinto													
Walker													
Waller													
* denotes continuous signup numbers													

Table 9. Acres of CRP for Texas, District 9, and District Counties by Signup Period.														
	25*	26	27*	28*	29	30*	31*	32-REX	33	34*	35*	36*	37*	38*
Texas	5,400	85,775	2,932	4,785	103,304	9,429	5,008	323,356	49,657		6,014	3,930	944	193
District 9														
Brazoria														
Brazos														
Burleson														
Chambers														
Fort Bend														
Galveston														
Grimes														
Hardin														
Harris														
Jefferson														
Lee														
Liberty														
Madison														
Montgomery														
Orange														
San Jacinto														
Walker														
Waller														
* denotes continuous signup numbers														

Table 10. CRP Enrollment by Year of Contract Expiration for District 9 Counties (All Signup Types).												
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	>2019
Texas	561,330	670,661	685,133	822,585	363,052	169,686	139,748	61,391	138,557	103,951	88,943	53,561
District 9												
Brazoria												
Brazos												
Burleson												
Chambers												
Fort Bend												
Galveston												
Grimes												
Hardin												
Harris												
Jefferson												
Lee												
Liberty												
Madison												
Montgomery												
Orange												
San Jacinto												
Walker												
Waller												
(As of February 2010)												

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